

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 19-29, and 40-42 are pending. Claims 1-8, 19-29, and 40-42 stand rejected. Claims 9-18 and 30-39 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 19-22, and 40-42 are hereby amended. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

Rejection Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 7, 21-23, 28, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,069,890 (White et al). Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended. White does not anticipate the claims for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 requires an interworking unit for interworking communications from a first format to a second format in response to a control message from a signaling processor. Claim 1 also requires the signaling processor coupled the interworking unit and configured to process a setup message to select a service for the call, and transfer the control message indicating the selected service. Claim 1 further recites a service platform coupled to the interworking unit and the signaling processor and configured to receive the control message and provide the selected service for the call. White does not disclose an interworking unit that interworks communications for a service based on a control message from a signaling a processor whereby the signaling processor selected the service based on a setup message.

White discloses gateway router 104 that converts communications from a PSTN format to an IP format. However, the gateway router 104 does not select a service. The service has already been determined to be Internet telephony prior to the junction where the gateway router 104 converts the communications from a first format to a second

format. Advantageously, claim 1 provides for control of the interworking point of a communications system. Rather than interworking communications and addressing the communications statically to be directed towards a switch or gateway, claim 1 provides for addressing communications based on a control message at the interworking point, thereby creating efficiencies within a communications system. What *signaling* the gateway router 104 in White converts is converted for transmitting the communications over the Internet, and not for a signal processor to select a service. Regardless, gateway router 104 does not receive a setup message.

Additionally, the manner in which the service is determined does not anticipate claim 1. White selects Internet telephony service at the initiation of an Internet call when a caller goes off-hook and dials a DTMF code such as *82. The LECs of White 102, 114 include an originating central office 50 and a remote central office 52 that conduct signal processing to setup and take down calls (White, Fig. 2). The LECs 102, 114 process signaling such as the *82 to select Internet telephony, not a setup message. The dialed code signals the originating central office that an Internet telephony call to the voicemail system is to be established. The central office recognizes the DTMF code and connects the call to the gateway router 104 for Internet telephony (White, col. 9, lines 10-30). White does not teach converting the setup message with a converter for a signal processor to select a service.

For the above reasons, White does not anticipate independent claim 1. Independent claim 22 contains similar limitations as claim 1 and is therefore allowable. Dependent claims 2, 7, 21, 23, 28, and 42 each recite further limitations that render them separately patentable over the prior art. However, because the limitations of base claims

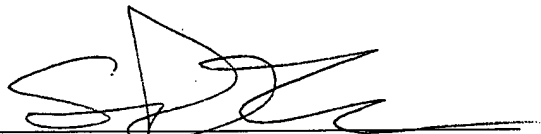
1 and 22 are sufficient to distinguish White, the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are traversed.

Rejection Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-6, 8, 19, 20, 24-27, 29, 40, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over White in view of U.S Patent No. 5,935,209 (Budhraj et al.). While claims 3-6, 8, 19, 20, 24-27, 29, 40, and 41 each recite further limitations that render these separately patentable over the prior art, a discussion is not necessary because the limitations of base claims 1 and 22 are sufficient to distinguish White in view of Budhraj.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore solicits their allowance. Included with this response is the transmittal authorizing any necessary fees and a request for a one month extension of time.



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